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The Filipino Labor Supply is Smaller

The real need of the Chinese laborers in Hawaii is very strikingly brought out by the statement of Hugo H. Miller, Philippine delegate to the Pan-Pacific conference, that Hawaii can no longer look to the Philippines for laborers. With the number of Japanese laborers steadily decreasing the Filipinos have been our only hope and last resort. If we can no longer get them in large numbers, without the Chinese laborers, Hawaii's sugar industry will soon die.

During the war the scarcity of ships in which to export copra, one of the leading products of the Philippines, compelled the construction of factories for the making of coconut oil at home. Also large areas of land in Sulu and Mindanao, which previously were jungle, have been opened up, giving employment to many.

Another reason why Hawaii will have to look elsewhere for labor is the educational advantages which the Filipino is now enjoying and which are increasing right along. The bureau of education plans to give every child in the islands seven or eight years of schooling.

The production of tobacco, hemp, and sugar have also increased greatly, as have some of the home industries. Embroidery to the extent of \$5,000,000 is sold annually.

And sugar is not the only industry that is suffering. Pineapples, rice, coffee—all are facing slow death. The shortage in the labor is now placing the big island coffee raisers in their last line of resistance. The Star-Bulletin makes the following review of that industry:

Coffee planters on the Big Island are realizing the pinch of the labor shortage to such an extent that the coffee growing industry is in serious danger of slow strangulation unless relief comes.

For that reason Big Island interests including the bankers and merchants, professional men, as well as the coffee planters themselves, have bombarded Washington with radio-grams pleading for the passage of the Hawaii emergency labor resolution. Scores of radio messages have been sent to the national capitol in the last fortnight urging the passage of the resolution and pointing out that unless this passage is taken a serious economic depression is almost certain to ensue.

One big business man in Honolulu pointed out to the Star-Bulletin that the selfish interest of the government ought to be considered as an important factor in the situation.

"The American government," asserted this observer, "has taxed the Territory of Hawaii very heavily in the last few years. Last year the territory paid out more than \$12,000,000 in federal taxes alone. It is evident, therefore, that Hawaii is an asset to be reckoned with and a source of revenue which should not be allowed to run dry."

"That is exactly what will happen unless the labor market is maintained. It is a life and death measure with Hawaii."

A. L. (Abe) Louissou, owner of a large coffee plantation on the Hamakua coast at Paauilo, arrived in Honolulu on the Mauna Kea today. In discussing the labor situation with the Star-Bulletin, he said:

"Under present conditions, it is virtually impossible for coffee growers on Hawaii to compete with sugar plantations in the matter of employing labor. There is certainly not enough labor to go around. Last year when the sugar plantations were paying high bonuses, the coffee growers found it impossible to obtain workers to harvest the crop, with the result that a large proportion of the crop was a total loss. The industry is not strong enough to stand two successive blows of that kind without staggering."

Difficulties with the labor problem are nothing new to Louissou. A pioneer in the coffee growing industry, with his brother, he was delegated several years ago to go to Washington to plead before Congress the necessity of supplying the territory with a sufficient laboring population if its industries were to stand on their feet and prosper. Louissou at that time gained a wide acquaintance among prominent men at the capitol and Louissou was regarded as one of the important contributing causes to the open minded attitude with which Washington has regarded Ha-

Kauai's Lack of Them Halts Mongoose Drive

There has been a sort of drive organized in Honolulu to rid the territory of rats. But the leaders of the drive are not finding it clear sailing. And according to a Honolulu paper, we Kauaites are pointed out as proof positive that the mongoose is not totally without his good points.

"While the mongoose is undoubtedly an enemy of game birds it is likewise an enemy of insects, rats and mice," asserts H. P. Agee, director of the station. "Many people feel that the mongoose has failed as an enemy of the rat, but the records, both in Hawaii and Jamaica, indicate that the rats have been reduced to an appreciable extent by the mongoose."

Caution is Advised.

"We would advise the use of public funds in efforts to reduce the mongoose. The state of Pennsylvania spent thousands and thousands of dollars to exterminate the owls and hawks, and when their efforts began to show results it was observed that the rats and mice had increased to such an alarming extent that protective measures had to be passed in behalf of the owls and hawks."

"The danger here, however, is not that the mongoose will be eradicated. The chance of reducing it to any considerable extent appears to us as a remote possibility. But in the meantime a great deal of the taxpayers' money may be spent."

"The opinion of the experiment station, however, is not that the animal should be protected."

We feel that the public should be free to take such steps as may be justified toward reducing it locally in various vicinities," Mr. Agee continued. "We believe, though, that all such endeavors will be of temporary and minor effectiveness."

Evidence in favor of the mongoose may be seen today in Kauai. Mr. Agee points out. The mongoose has not been introduced on that island, and the rat menace is in general more serious there than it is with the other islands of Hawaii.

The mongoose was introduced from India about 25 years ago. Three years after this an article in the Planters' Monthly, said in part:

"There is no doubt that the mongoose has saved the planters of Hamakua thousands of dollars. In former years it was no uncommon thing to see one-fourth and even one-half of the cane left on the fields, the rats having rendered that portion unfit for grinding by eating the stalks near the ground and causing them to rot and die."

One planter said: "They complain about the mongoose eating chickens, but the little beggars save me thousands of dollars. Besides it is only a few chickens they eat. I do not believe they destroy as many as the rats used to."

The experiment station entomologists have made a study of the habits of the mongoose and have reported that it is very destructive to insect life.

"Among the insects which it is proved that the mongoose eats are adult cane borers, adults and grubs of the Japanese beetles, cockroaches of different kinds, mole-crickets, grass hoppers, earwigs and ants, thus showing a catholic taste in its insect diet," reports F. Muir, station entomologist.

"Only in one case have we found evidence that the mongoose eats the eggs of birds," he says. "We have also established the fact that the mongoose feeds on small rats and mice."

Those attending the station conference besides Mr. Agee and Mr. Muir were O. H. Swezey, entomologist; H. L. Lyon, in charge of the department of botany and forestry, and J. A. Verret, agriculturist.

At the suggestion of Harry V. Patten, cashier of the First Bank of Hilo, Mr. Louissou sent back several radiograms to political friends in the east urging them to support the emergency labor resolution. Among those whom he addressed are Theodore Burton, former governor of Ohio, and Senator Oscar W. Underwood of Alabama.

"This is a crisis in the history of Hawaii's infant industries," Louissou continued. "So far as the Kona coffee growing district is concerned I cannot speak, not having been in Kona for several years. But in my own case, the necessity for labor relief is very pressing. We've got to have it."

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